

NEW FOREST
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

on

Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions

of the

New Forest Rural District

for the Year 1946

Submitted to the Rural District Council

by

GEORGE HABGOOD, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Rural District Council.

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NEW FOREST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1946.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the New Forest Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1946.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	94,957
Estimate of Resident Population, 1946	...	...	...	39,130
Estimated number of inhabited houses (end of 1946)				11,536
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1947	...	...	...	£259,888
Sum represented by a penny rate (for the year ended March 31st, 1947)	...	...	...	£1,017

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE CHIEF INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON IN THE AREA.

The largest area of the district is the ancient Crown Forest. Forestry is therefore an important industry and represents in many direct and indirect ways the occupations of the inhabitants inside the waterside parishes. There are also a considerable number of smallholders having Forest Rights, who are engaged in calf-rearing and pig-keeping. The areas bordering the Forest on the North, East and South are, except actually on the waterside, agricultural, whilst the waterside portions of the parishes of Eling, Marchwood, Dibden and Fawley are principally industrial, which includes timber works, tar distilling, motor-boat works, flying-boat works, a large petroleum refinery and other light industries. These parishes are therefore mainly inhabited by industrial workers.

No occupation has had any adverse effect on public health so far as is known.

EXTRACT OF VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births :	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—20.54.
Legitimate	743	391	352	
Illegitimate	61	37	24	
	—	—	—	
Total	804	428	376	
	—	—	—	

Stillbirths :

Legitimate	17	12	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live
Illegitimate	2	1	1	and still births)—21.03.
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	19.1
Deaths	430	236	194	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion—10.98.

Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	11.5
Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the			

Registrar General's Short List) :—

Deaths :

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	1	Death Rate per 1,000 of
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	4	births—6.07 (live & still).

		M.	F.
Deaths of infants under one year of age	...	10	7
Legitimate	...	9	6
Illegitimate	...	1	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	21.14
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	20.09
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	32.78
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	43
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	76
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	2
Deaths from Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	2

No causes of sickness or invalidity have been specially noteworthy during the year; no conditions of occupation or environment appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (part-time).
- 1 Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 2 Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

A moiety of the salaries of all these Officers is received under the Public Health Acts and the Sanitary Officers devote the whole of their time to their duties.

A Rodent Officer appointed in 1943, devotes the whole of his time to his duties and works under the general supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Legislation in Force :

The following adoptive portion of the Public Health Acts ;
and Bye-laws and Regulations are in force in the district :—

Public Health Act, 1925—Sections 17, 18 and 19.

Bye-laws with respect to :—

New Buildings	...	...	...	1939
New Streets	...	...	...	1933
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	1932
Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures				1935
The Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	1936
Emission of Smoke	...	...	...	1940

Regulations as to :—

Connections of Drains to Sewers (parishes of Eling,
Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst only).

The Council accepted delegation of powers under the Rats
and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, as from 1st October, 1938,
and are under direction of the Ministry of Food in carrying out
the "Rats and Mice Infestation Order, 1943".

Laboratory Facilities.

Continue as in previous years for all purposes at the
County Laboratories and an emergency Public Health Laboratory
established during the war now at the Royal County Hospital,
Winchester.

Ambulance Facilities :

(a) For infectious cases, by arrangement with the South-
ampton Borough Council.

(b) For other cases, ambulances provided by the St. John
Ambulance Association and British Red Cross Society
kept at Totton, Brockenhurst and Fawley.

Nursing in the Home :

(a) No changes have occurred in the area for general
nursing.

(b) The isolation and treatment of infectious cases is
carried out in the Isolation Hospital of the South-
ampton Borough Council.

Clinics and Treatment :

These services are provided by the County Council :—

(a) Ante-Natal Clinics.

Totton—County Council Health	1st, 2nd & 3rd
Centre, Rumbridge Street.	Mondays, 2 p.m.
Lymington—Parish Hall.	2nd, 3rd & 4th
	Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

(b) *Child Welfare Centres.*

Boldre—Memorial Hall, Pilley.	3rd Tuesday
Bramshaw—Village Hall.	2nd Tuesday
Brockenhurst—Morant Hall.	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Copythorne—Foresters' Hall, Bartley.	1st & 3rd Thursdays
Dibden Purlieu—Women's Institute Hall.	2nd & 4th Tuesdays
East Boldre—Parish Hall.	1st Thursday
Exbury—Women's Institute.	2nd Thursday
Fawley—Methodist Hall, Wesleyan Lane.	1st & 3rd Mondays
Fritham—Sunday School Room.	2nd Wednesday
Lyndhurst—Church Hall.	1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Marchwood—Church Hall.	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Minstead—The Hut.	2nd Thursday
Sway—Women's Institute.	2nd Tuesday
Totton—County Council Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.	Every Friday, all day

(All centres commence at 2 p.m. except where otherwise stated).

(c) *Day Nurseries.* Nil.

(d) *School Clinics.*

Minor Ailments (for school children and children under school age).

Totton—County Council Health
Centre, Rumbridge Street.

Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m.

Lymington—Parish Hall.

Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m.

Ophthalmic. Clinics for school children and children under school age are held at Totton and Lymington; examinations by appointment only from the County Medical Officer.

Dental. Clinics for school children, children under school age and expectant mothers are held at various centres; attendance by appointment only from the County Medical Officer or County Dental Officer.

(e) *Orthopaedic Clinics.*

Totton—County Council Health Centre, Rumbridge St.

Surgeon's Clinic—3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m. *odd* months.

Remedial Clinic—Every Wednesday, 9.30 and 1.30.

Cases from the New Forest Rural District area are also dealt with at the LYMINGTON Remedial Clinic held at the Literary Institute on Friday mornings at 9.30 a.m.

(f) *Artificial Light.* Nil.

(g) *Tuberculosis Clinics.*

Christchurch—County Council

Health Centre, Millhams Street. Mondays at 10 a.m.

Totton—County Council Health

Centre, Rumbridge Street.

Thursdays at 10 a.m.

(h) *Hospitals (Maternity).*

Hospitals in the area with which the County Council has made arrangements for the reception of Maternity cases are :—

Boscombe—Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital.

Winchester—Royal Hampshire County Hospital.

Cases of unsuitable home conditions are admitted to the County Council Maternity Homes at Hill Rise, Lyndhurst, and The Grove, Barton-on-Sea. Hill Rise is temporarily closed owing to lack of staff but will be re-opened as soon as sufficient staff is obtained.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

No. of samples of Water taken	Results of Exam.		Remedial Work Done			Remarks
	Fit	Unfit	Piped service installed	Wells improved and water made fit	Remain unfit	
97	34	63	81	2	14	Unfit wells are in hand.

During the year the Council have again reviewed schemes for the extension of water mains in various parts of their district and have drawn up a programme of priority.

The parishes of Bramshaw and Minstead, in which the water supply gives much cause for concern, have been given first priority and at the end of the year, terms were agreed to purchase a bulk supply of water from the Southampton Corporation to serve these parishes and the scheme submitted to the Minister of Health for approval, as required by Section 12 of the Water Act, 1945; they have also been in negotiation with the Air Ministry to take over water mains laid in these parishes by the Ministry to serve an R.A.F. Station which became redundant during the year.

Other extensions required in the parishes of Netley Marsh, Copythorne, Marchwood, Fawley, Dibden, Beaulieu and Denny Lodge have also been under review and consultations have taken place with the Statutory Water Undertakers and the Hants War Agricultural Executive Committee (in regard to agricultural needs) with a view to having these extensions carried out with the minimum of delay.

At the latter end of the year the Minister of Health's approval was received to carry out two small extensions at Ower Lane and Nelsons Place, Fawley under a guarantee agreement with the Southampton Corporation.

The district is supplied with water by the Southampton Corporation and the West Hampshire Water Company; the supply is constant and the quality satisfactory.

In the parishes of Minstead, Bramshaw, parts of Copythorne, Denny Lodge and Rhinefield, the supply of water is dependent solely upon wells. The parishes of Beaulieu and Exbury are supplied privately by Beaulieu Manor and the Exbury Estate. Samples of water taken from the sources of supply were found to be satisfactory.

Action in respect of any form of contamination :

For the year under review every effort has been made to provide a piped water supply to houses relying upon well water.

A total of 97 samples were taken of which 63 were found to be polluted. The wells were invariably shallow, constructed of open jointed brickwork with little or no protection and were, in effect, culture dishes. It will be seen that 34 samples were found to be fit but, nevertheless, the wells were so constructed and situated that seasonal pollution was highly probable and informal interviews with the owners resulted in an appreciable number being connected to the main supply. Despite the difficult times experienced in getting work carried out, 80 properties were provided with a main water supply by informal action and 1 by formal action, the statutory notice being complied with without resort to legal action. Of the number remaining unfit, necessary action had been taken but the work not completed at the end of the year.

*Percentage number of Dwelling Houses in the District
supplied from Public Water Mains.*

Parish	Main Supply	Per-centage of houses connect- ed to Mains	Per-centage of houses with wells or other means of supply	Remarks.
Lyndhurst	Yes	98	2	—
Brockenhurst	Yes	96	4	—
Coppythorne	Yes	55	45	Parts of this Parish lie outside the stat. limits of supply of Southampton Corp. The Council have approved extensions.
Sway	Yes	89	11	—
Fawley	Yes	83	17	Council have approved small extensions in areas not covered by existing mains.
East Boldre	Yes	48	52	—
Dibden	Yes	86	14	Council have approved extensions in areas not covered by existing mains
Marchwood	Yes	73	27	ditto
Netley Marsh	Yes	52	48	Council have approved extension in certain areas where there are no exist- ing mains.
Eling	Yes	98	2	—
Denny Lodge	Yes	2	98	Council have approved extension in certain parts where there are no exist- ing mains.
Boldre	Yes	51	49	—
Minstead	No	—	100	See remarks in report.
Bramshaw	No	—	100	ditto
Beaulieu	Private Estate Supply	—	—	Council have approved extension of West Hants Water Mains to cover Parish.
Exbury	Private Estate Supply	—	—	—
Rhinefield	Yes	25	75	Council have approved extension to parts of this Parish.

No waters are known to have any plumbo solvent action and there are no known cases of plumbism.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The parishes of Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst and Eling are provided with main drainage.

During the course of the year the Public Health Committee considered and recommended the Council to carry out a number of extensions to the public sewers in the parishes of Eling and Brockenhurst. These were approved and the necessary plans and Bills of Quantities, etc. prepared and submitted to the Ministry. It was hoped that some of these smaller extensions would have been completed this year. The Council have also had under review the provision of main drainage schemes in other parishes now dependant upon cesspit drainage and conservancy. Plans, etc. have been prepared for such schemes in the parishes concerned.

In May the Minister of Health directed an Inquiry be held in regard to the Council's application to carry out a main drainage scheme in the parish of Dibden. Colonel Ewart Rhodes, M.I.C.E., Barrister-at-Law, the Inspector appointed by the Minister, held the Inquiry at Hythe on May 28th.

No extensions of existing sewers have been made during the year.

The work of improving the sewage disposal works at Lyndhurst has again been considered and a scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer. Recommendations have been made to enable this work to be commenced with the minimum of delay.

Much time and effort has been given to general sanitation. I do not wish to repeat the all too familiar difficulties with which we are faced in regard to shortage of materials, etc., except to add that the position has not materially improved. Nevertheless despite the obstacles encountered, some progress has been made in the improvement of sanitation generally as will be seen from the following :—

(i) Closet Accommodation—Conversion from Conservancy to Water Carriage.

During the year 51 properties were dealt with where main drainage was available. As a result of informal action, 30 properties were provided with water closets and the drains connected to the main drainage system. The remaining 21 were in hand at the end of the year, but the work had not been completed. In 2 cases involving eleven properties, the owners made application to the Council to carry out the work on their behalf.

Action has also been taken in those areas where there are no main drainage facilities. The Council gave approval for the necessary conversion work to be carried out in 18 Council Houses.

(ii) Defective and Insufficient Drainage Systems and Defective Sanitary Accommodation.

For the period under review the following work has been completed :—

a.	Defective cesspits filled in and drainage systems connected to the public sewer	...	24
b.	Defective drains repaired	...	33
c.	Defective sanitary accommodation renewed		30
d.	Overflowing cesspits dealt with	...	22
e.	Sinks and sink waste drainage provided	...	35

The total number of premises connected to the public sewers during the year are as follows :—

Parish of Lyndhurst	...	...	2
Parish of Brockenhurst	...	...	1
Parish of Eling	...	...	63
			—
Total			66
			—

There still remains a great deal of work to be done to improve drainage conditions, particularly in the Parish of Eling and those parishes not afforded main drainage facilities. It is hoped that in the not too distant future, it is not too much to expect that main drainage facilities will be forthcoming at least in the parishes of Dibden and Fawley and parts of other parishes where the characteristics and capital costs admit such schemes to be executed.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Action has been taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams. Overgrown and choked watercourses causing flooding to properties have also been dealt with, four having been cleaned out on behalf of the Council by the Hampshire Rivers Catchment Board.

Whilst every effort is made to keep watercourses clean, it is very disappointing to find that, after the work has been completed, irresponsible persons find it very convenient to use them for the disposal of refuse, despite the fact that an organised collection of refuse is carried out throughout the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Scheme for the collection and disposal of refuse throughout the whole of the area was completed in October. The scheme is operated by direct labour under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Difficulties were experienced in acquiring the necessary vehicles and labour, and at the end of the year the scheme was operating short of complement and without a reserve vehicle.

Domestic refuse is collected fortnightly. Trade refuse is collected weekly on payment; the scale of charges being based upon the number of bins for disposal. Disposal is by controlled tipping at sites situated at Totton, Fawley, Stoney Cross and Brockenhurst. Ample covering material is available on the sites at Stoney Cross and Fawley, but at Totton and Brockenhurst it has to be hauled, which takes up a great deal of time and involves additional expenditure.

Five 10 cubic yard Dennis side loading refuse vehicles and nineteen personnel are employed in carrying out this service. The vehicles are garaged at Totton, Lyndhurst and Cadnam; no Central Depot being available at present. Maintenance of vehicles is all important in carrying out a scheme covering such a wide area. A vehicle is therefore kept in reserve and used in each area in rotation to allow the regular vehicles to receive a monthly overhaul. Weekly routine maintenance is carried out by the drivers. The monthly mileage covered by five vehicles averages 4,300. As the scheme has not been fully operated during the year, I do not propose, in this report, to give any statistics as to the amount of refuse collected and disposed of, etc.

With the exception of a few teething troubles during its inception, the scheme has worked fairly smoothly and within the estimated cost.

In the more closely populated areas a weekly collection is desirable and will no doubt be considered by the Council at the appropriate time.

When the scheme was in full operation, rubbish pits provided in the various parishes, where no organised collection was previously undertaken, were considered redundant and instructions were given by the Council to close them. This involved a considerable amount of work and time in taking down fences, ramming the refuse and covering with, at least, a foot of soil. The pits were in a bad state owing to their having been used for the disposal of Military and Air Force refuse. At the end of the year, five were closed and properly sealed. The work being done by personnel engaged on the refuse scheme. At the end of 1946 three remained to be closed.

Provision of Dustbins.

100 inspections have been made during the year to premises where there were no proper sanitary dustbins.

COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSAL OF SALVAGE.

At the end of 1945 this work was brought into the new scheme, no personnel being engaged primarily for this purpose.

Salvage is collected and subsequently deposited at Wilverley where it is sorted and bagged; baling having been discontinued as it was considered uneconomical to engage personnel specially for this purpose.

Salvage is collected from private dwellings at the same time as the refuse, a separate compartment of the refuse vehicle being sealed off for this purpose. During the year clean sandbags were issued to householders as an experiment to increase saving of waste paper, etc. Two thousand were issued but unfortunately it was not the success we hoped to achieve; in some instances the sandbags were found most useful as doormats.

Householders were also circularised urging them to save more; slides were shown at cinemas and posters exhibited.

Salvage collected and disposed of during the year amounted to :

Articles	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	127	14	2	730	17	1
Textiles	8	12	—	156	4	8
Bones	5	12	—	29	13	1
Bottles, Jars, etc. ...	1192 dozen			96	17	4
Ferrous Metals ...	4	18	—	9	0	5
Total	146	16	2	1022	12	7
Board of Trade Allowance for increased paper collection over 1945	...	...	...	26	19	4
Grand Total	...	...	...	1049	11	11

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.
Summary of Inspections made.

Nature of Inspections	No. made
Infectious Diseases	142
Nuisances	593
Water Supply	238
Housing	2129
Retail Meat and Food Shops	163
Milk and Dairies	213
Food Premises	38
Milk Samples (Special Designations Order)	33
Factories and Workshops ...	77
Refuse Collection and Disposal	186
Verminous Premises	12
Schools	18
Moveable Dwellings	22
Miscellaneous	154
Smoke Abatement	13
Total	4,031

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Action has been taken for the eradication of bed bugs and fleas.

Three houses and a hotel were treated with D.D.T. Zaldecide.

SWIMMING POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools open to the public in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Thirteen smoke observations were made during the year in the parish of Eling. No statutory action was taken. Interviews with the Managers have taken place and, whilst smoke nuisance has been committed, efforts are being continued to modify and improve the plant and boiler technique. Dr. E. J. Mahler, Ministry of Health Inspector, visited the works with the Senior Sanitary Inspector on a number of occasions.

PREVENTION OF MOSQUITO BREEDING.

Static water tanks placed around the district were dealt with by spraying and also puncturing to release the water. A number were removed during the year. Demolition of remaining tanks is in progress.

SCHOOLS.

During the year the usual routine inspections were carried out at schools in the district.

Observations were submitted to the County Medical Officer and interviews have taken place with representatives of the County Architect and County Education Authority regarding various repairs and improvements to sanitary accommodation.

At Brockenhurst, Emery Down, Lyndhurst and Totton the school premises are connected to the main sewers but it is regretted that in some cases obsolete and insanitary appliances are still in use. Exbury, Hardley, Colbury and South Baddesley have water carriage systems connected to their own disposal plants. In the remaining parishes where sewers are not available, earth closets are provided.

A number of improvements of drainage and sanitation have been carried out and the standard of cleanliness has improved.

With the exception of Bramshaw and Minstead, which rely upon wells, the schools have a piped supply of water; it is hoped that the extension of the water mains to Bramshaw and Minstead will take place before long.

It would be a decided improvement if, instead of the cracked cups and chipped enamel mugs used at some schools, proper and hygienic drinking fountains could be provided.

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools by reason of infectious disease.

MILK, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There have been a number of changes in the proprietorship of dairy farms during the year and the number is now 368.

The number of retailers in the district who are not producers is 12. The milk produced in the district is very largely sent to Southampton and Bournemouth.

There are 34 producers of "Tuberculin Tested" milk in the area and 37 producers of "Accredited" milk representing an increase of 11 and 4 respectively over 1945. The licences are granted by the County Council. Two firms licensed in the Borough of Southampton hold "Supplementary" licences to sell designated milk in the district, whilst 3 dairymen hold "Dealers" licences in respect of designated milk.

During the year 33 samples of pasteurised milk were taken in the course of delivery, 2 of which did not comply with the regulations. These two failures were reported to the Authorities concerned and subsequent samples taken proved satisfactory.

213 inspections were made during the year and the following improvements have been carried out:—

Construction of new cowsheds	...	...	4
Construction of new dairies	...	...	7
Reconstruction of cowshed floors	...	...	3
Reconstruction of drainage systems	...	...	3
Improved lighting and ventilation of cowsheds and dairies	...	...	3
Provision of a piped water supply	...	...	3

Numerous minor defects have been remedied and a number remained outstanding at the end of the year.

The principles of clean milk production have been given first consideration and good results have been maintained generally.

The following table gives the particulars relating to action taken during the year.

Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds.

Inspections made.				Milk Samples.			
No.	Defects Found	Remedied	Defects outstanding	Total taken	Designation	Complied with Regulations	
						Yes	No
213	51	42	9	33	Pasteurised	31	2

The defects found consisted of want of cleanliness in respect of cows, cowsheds and utensils; neglect of limewashing; unclean milking stools and floors; defective floor drainage, etc.

T.T. Area.

At the latter end of the year the Public Health Committee discussed the possibility of a suitable area being made and legally instituted a T.T. Area and the inclusion of the New Forest Rural District in that area.

CAMPING SITES.

During the year a total of 28 inspections were made in connection with camping sites and individual moveable dwellings. So far as is known there were 7 sites in the area apart from individual moveable dwellings, these were licensed by the Council under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936.

Calshot Beach, a very delightful and popular resort on the western shore at the entrance to the Southampton Water, where a number of beach huts have been erected by individual persons and occupied during the summer months, received the attention of the Council in regard to the provision of suitable sanitary conveniences for the use of the public and the improvement of the existing sanitation of the beach huts. A number of inspections were made and reports compiled thereon. A Sub-Committee, appointed by the Council, met the Agent to the Cadland Estate (owners of the land) on site and discussed proposals which the Council intend carrying out when practicable.

It is impossible to give any reasonably accurate estimate of the maximum number of campers resident in the district during the summer season—owing to the peculiar nature of the Council's district, but it is known that there is a very large influx of campers into the New Forest each summer. In addition, several large Boy Scout and Girl Guide camps are held, particularly along the Solent frontage of the parish of Beaulieu and at Foxlease, Lyndhurst.

A number of persons use moveable dwellings as their permanent residences and during the year 14 were licensed by the Council. The number being used is increasing due, no doubt, to the shortage of housing. There are known to be a large number of moveable dwellings in regular use in the district which are not yet licensed, but it is hoped to deal with these during 1947.

Before any licenses are granted, each applicant must have the approval of the Planning Authority and the Public Health Committee, a system which works smoothly and assists materially in regulating the use of such dwellings.

HOUSING.

The carrying out of work under the above heading has again proved very difficult. The position with regard to the allocation of material and labour for housing repair is far

from satisfactory and instead of improving has become considerably worse.

All complaints have been dealt with as far as existing conditions permitted, not perhaps according to the very high standard we have known in the past, but with a view to obtaining the maximum amount of protection and comfort for the greatest number of people. It has meant improvising in many ways but the satisfaction of obtaining results from almost nothing had its compensations.

Conditions in the area are still far from satisfactory due very largely to the lack of housing accommodation brought about by the exigencies of total war. The position gives cause for some concern as many people are living under overcrowded, dangerous and unhealthy housing conditions.

(1) *Inspection of Dwelling Houses, etc.* (other than Rural Housing Survey);

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected	205
(b) Number of inspections and visits made in connection therewith	924

(2) *Summary of defects remedied during the year :*

(a) Defective roofs repaired	40
(b) Defective floors taken up and renewed	37
(c) Other items of disrepair	53
(d) Dampness abated	28

During the year one licence under the Defence Regulations, 1939 and Housing Act, 1932 (Sec. 155) was granted for temporary use of a cottage subject to a demolition order.

Number of Council Houses erected during the year :

Copythorne (Bartley)	2
Boldre (Portmore 2 and Norley Wood 4)	6
Total	8

Number of House erected by Private enterprise :

Eling	42
Rhinefield	1
Fawley	6
Bramshaw	1
East Boldre	1
Copythorne	5
Netley Marsh	3
Minstead	2
Marchwood	1
Total	62

Particulars of Houses owned by the Local Authority:

Boldre	...	...	...	...	30
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	40
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	28
Dibden	...	...	...	...	22
East Boldre	...	...	...	...	22
Eling	...	...	...	...	28
Fawley	...	...	...	...	22
Marchwood	...	...	...	...	21
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	8
Sway	...	...	...	...	14
Total					235

SQUATTERS.

In common with many other districts we have had our "Squatting" problems. Soon after this forceful manner of rehousing became the fashion, it was found that the following camps in this district were occupied:—

Beaulieu H.A.A. Site (Yew Tree Camp).

Lime Kiln Lane H.A.A. Site.

Hounsdown H.A.A. Site.

Veals Farm Camp, Marchwood.

As soon as information was received inspections were made with a view to checking up on water supplies, sanitation, etc. In each case the matter was reported to the Ministry of Health Regional Office at Reading, the help received from them was invaluable.

Where water supplies had been turned off, arrangements were made with the Military Authorities to turn them on again and maintain them. Main drainage had been installed at each camp so there was no difficulty with regard to sanitation. Electricity was available and made use of, and arrangements made to collect domestic refuse. In fact, everything possible was done for the comfort and good health of the occupiers. Periodical inspections of sanitary blocks and water supply were made and samples of water taken for analysis.

GYPSY ENCAMPMENTS.

The Council, in conjunction with the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council and the Forestry Commission, discussed the problem of Gypsy Encampments in the New Forest and have devoted considerable time and thought in evolving a solution.

The Clerk, on behalf of the Council, prepared a memorandum on the subject which was submitted to the Minister of Health and other interested bodies and it is gratifying to know that the terms of the memorandum were received with satisfaction by all concerned. Subsequently conferences took place with representatives of the Ministry of Health with a view to adopting a long term policy along the lines of the memorandum for the

abolishment of the encampments, the rehousing, education and upgrading of Gypsy families.

Whilst this subject is intriguing, it is, nevertheless, fraught with difficulties but it can be said that good progress has been made by the Council to this end.

Periodical visits to the camps have been made.

RURAL HOUSING.

Ministry of Health Circular 64/44.

In connection with the survey of working class dwellings called for by the Minister of Health under Circular 64/44 and recommended in the Hobhouse Report, 1,205 premises were inspected during the year giving a total of 3,447 since the beginning of the Survey in May 1945.

The survey is proceeding in the parishes of Brockenhurst, Eling, Copythorne, Netley Marsh, Fawley and Sway. Progress has again been fairly smooth but a considerable number of householders are still of the opinion that the right and proper thing to do is to make life very awkward for "the Man from the Council", however, it has not been found necessary to take any legal action.

The 3,447 houses surveyed, were categorised and grouped as follows:—

PARISH OF BROCKENHURST.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	5	144	141	2	26	318
	B	1	13	19	5	8	46
	C	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total		6	157	160	7	35	365

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 9.6
PARISH OF ELING.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	114	950	186	14	37	1301
	B	9	46	15	2	1	73
	C	—	1	—	—	3	4
Total		123	997	201	16	41	1378

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 2.9
PARISH OF COPYTHORNE.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	22	150	232	4	73	481
	C	—	—	1	—	1	2
Total		22	150	233	4	74	483

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 15.3

PARISH OF NETLEY MARSH.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	17	79	164	2	33	295
	C	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total		17	79	164	2	35	297

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 11.8
PARISH OF SWAY.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	62	153	154	19	59	447
	C	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		62	153	154	19	59	447

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 13.4
PARISH OF FAWLEY.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	96	68	186	7	70	427
	C	—	1	14	4	6	25
Total		96	69	200	11	76	452

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 16.8
PARISH OF BRAMSHAW. 3—3B. 2—2B.

PARISH OF BOLDRE. 19—3B.

PARISH OF MINSTEAD. 1—5C.

Category 5 houses as percentage of total inspected 9.28

Explanation of Groups and Categories.

Groups.

Group A. "Service available, *i.e.*, piped supply, water carriage sewerage system, gas or electricity," denoting that these services are available but not necessarily connected.

Group B. "Restricted number of services available, others likely to be available in the near future," denoting that one or several of the above services are available, but not necessarily connected and that those not at present available may become so in the near future.

Group C. "Rural conditions only"; services not available or anticipated to be available in the near future, denoting that these conditions are not likely to be varied.

Categories.

- Category 1.* Denotes dwelling satisfactory in all respects.
Category 2. Denotes minor defects only.
Category 3. Denotes requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements.
Category 4. Denotes appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
Category 5. Denotes unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.

FACTORIES.

Premises	No. in Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	84	62	15	—
Factories without mechanical power	28	15	9	—
Total	112	77	24	—

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of Defects				Defects entailing Prosecution
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	9	9	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	1	—	1	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	1	—	1	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Insufficient	9	6	—	1	—
Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—	—
Lack of wholesome water supply	1	—	1	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	27	21	3	2	—

2 outworkers were employed in this district during the year.

MEAT, SLAUGHTER HOUSES, FOOD STORES, ETC.

Number of inspections at food shops 201
 Number of inspections at cottage killings 9

There are 12 registered and 5 licensed slaughter houses in the district. The Ministry of Food have not used any for centralised slaughtering.

Practically all home-killed meat sold in this area is from animals slaughtered in the Southampton area where the meat is subject to inspection prior to delivery to the butchers' shops.

Much time was spent in the examination of foodstuffs and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

270 tins	Corned Beef	...	Decomposition
15 tins	Roast Beef	...	do.
13 lbs.	Tea	...	Damp and Mouldy
1	Pig's Lung	...	Congestion
20 lbs	Imported Beef	...	Fibroma
357 lbs.	Imported Beef	...	Bone Taint
1	H.Q. Imported Beef	...	do.
171 lbs.	Home Killed Beef	...	do.
6¼ lbs.	Home Killed Beef	...	Bruised
82	Eggs	...	Unwholesome
8 lbs.	Sugar	...	Contamination by Parazone
56 tins	Peas	...	Decomposition
74 tins	Fish	...	do.
35 tins	Meat	...	do.
1 tin	Golden Syrup	...	do.
1 tin	Treacle	...	do.
165 tins	Milk	...	do.
11 tins	Beans	...	do.
1	Packet Shredded Wheat	...	Unwholesome
32 lbs	Butter	...	Rancid
6 jars	Jam	...	Jars broken in transit
3 tins	Jam	...	Decomposition
160 lbs.	Fish	...	do.
61 lbs.	Cheese	...	Unsaleable
80 lbs.	Rolled Oats	...	Damp and Sour
90 lbs.	Raisins	...	Contaminated by Mice
4 tins	Tomatoes	...	Decomposition
3 tins	Fruit	...	do.
½ lb.	Tongue	...	do.
2 jars	Lemon Curd	...	Broken in transit
10	Packets Wine Gums	...	Unsaleable
34 lbs.	Cake Mixture	...	Decomposed
25½ lbs.	Bacon	...	Decomposed
1	Gammon Bacon (12lbs.) (Canadian)	...	Maggotty
71 lbs.	Margarine	...	Rancid
2 lbs.	Suet	...	Unsaleable
70 lbs.	Chilean Beans	...	Mouldy
2 tins	Vegetables	...	Decomposition
2 tins	Soups	...	do.
3 tins	Spaghetti	...	do.
28 lbs.	Macaroni	...	Mouldy
38	Chickens (98 lbs.)	...	Decomposition
1 cwt.	Pork Pie Filler	...	Contamination by Coal Tar Products

All fats for human consumption and all meats (other than tinned) were returned to the wholesalers as required by the Ministry of Food. Where possible, other condemned food was used for animal feeding.

FOODS AND DRUGS.

Food Premises :

There is only one fairly large food factory in the area. It produces pork pies, sausages, meat rolls, etc. Considerable improvements have been carried out here; one part of the building has been entirely reconstructed and the installation of modern hygienic machinery is in progress. New sanitary blocks are in the course of construction and other work will be completed as soon as possible.

As far as possible, supervision has been given to all places where food is prepared for sale, including cafe and restaurant kitchens. There is ample room for improvement in these premises and I would like to see a standard laid down and provision made for all premises where food is prepared for sale for human consumption to be licensed by the Local Authority.

Ice Cream :

This very important item has received special attention.

There are 14 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and 5 registered for sale and manufacture. The premises registered for sale alone, receive their supplies from reputable firms; the major portion is received wrapped and is served to the public as received. For the short period it remains in the shop it is stored in refrigerated containers. Manufacture is only carried out in a small way. These premises receive constant supervision during the season.

Licensed Premises.

Periodical inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at the above premises. The degree of cleanliness varies considerably and needs improvement; it is receiving active attention.

The method of cleansing glasses in some of the premises is far from satisfactory. A constant supply of hot water should be available in all licensed premises together with a plentiful supply of clean towels.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1939. INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Under direction from the Ministry of Food, a staff of one Rodent Officer and five Operators were engaged on this work.

The introduction of the 60% of cost borne by the Ministry of Food, has assisted the work of disinfestation to private

properties under the "Block Control Scheme". Every private occupier has taken advantage of the free service offered and given ready co-operation in allowing the operators access to their property.

Business establishments were also treated where necessary. Charges of varying amounts were made for this class of property, according to the degree of infestation and the time and materials involved.

The method of killing rats and mice in the Block Control Scheme, whereby every building, bank, ditch and hedgerow is inspected and serviced systematically, has proved very effective and has attained a very high percentage in rodent destruction in the parishes that have been completed. The success of the campaign has been greatly due to the fact that unknown infestations have been revealed, particularly in overgrown banks which, no doubt, would have been missed if other methods had been adopted. Rat proofing has been carried out where practicable.

Apart from Block Control, a number of major disinfestations were carried out at corn stores, schools, poultry farms and other property, the majority of which needed periodical attention.

The Hampshire War Agricultural Executive Committee are the administrators for agricultural land and holdings; any infestations on these properties are brought to the notice of the County Port Officer, Winchester.

Eight parishes were completed during the year and parts of Boldre and East Boldre.

Figures obtained from parishes where "Block Control" was applied.

Parish	No. of Premises Dealt with	No. of Dead Recovered		Approximate Kill	
		Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice
Eling	1777	511	286	10795	2752
Netley Marsh	296	476	23	5126	683
Copythorne	295	568	82	4742	1215
Marchwood	155	69	42	1625	780
Dibden	238	260	65	2094	803
Fawley	540	601	144	3379	1966
Exbury and Beaulieu ...	58	69	15	882	193
Boldre and East Boldre (part)	109	114	28	1741	411
Totals	3468	2668	685	30384	8803

The above includes action taken at Council owned property i.e., Sewage Disposal Works and Refuse Disposal Sites.

Public sewers in the parishes of Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst and Eling are free from infestation.

THE PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year :—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles	55	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	143	—	—
Scarlet Fever	13	4	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	2	2	2
Pneumonia	9	—	10
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	3	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Totals ...	230	11	13

The case of diphtheria was a child who had not been immunised. The infection was from outside the district.

There were no deaths from measles or whooping cough.

According to the Registrar General's figures, the population in the past year has increased by 1,620.

Overcrowding is a serious matter in the more urban parts of the district, but in spite of that, the incidence of infectious disease is low and our infantile mortality rate is less than half that for the country as a whole.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The progress in the treatment against diphtheria has been maintained. From the Council's records it is known that at the 31st December, 1946 the following children had received the full course treatment :—

	Under 5	5-14	Total	Topping-up
12 months to 31/12/46	551	61	612	34
Total immunised	2243	3430	5673	
Population	3340	5850	9190	

Many children received treatment privately of which the Council has no record.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

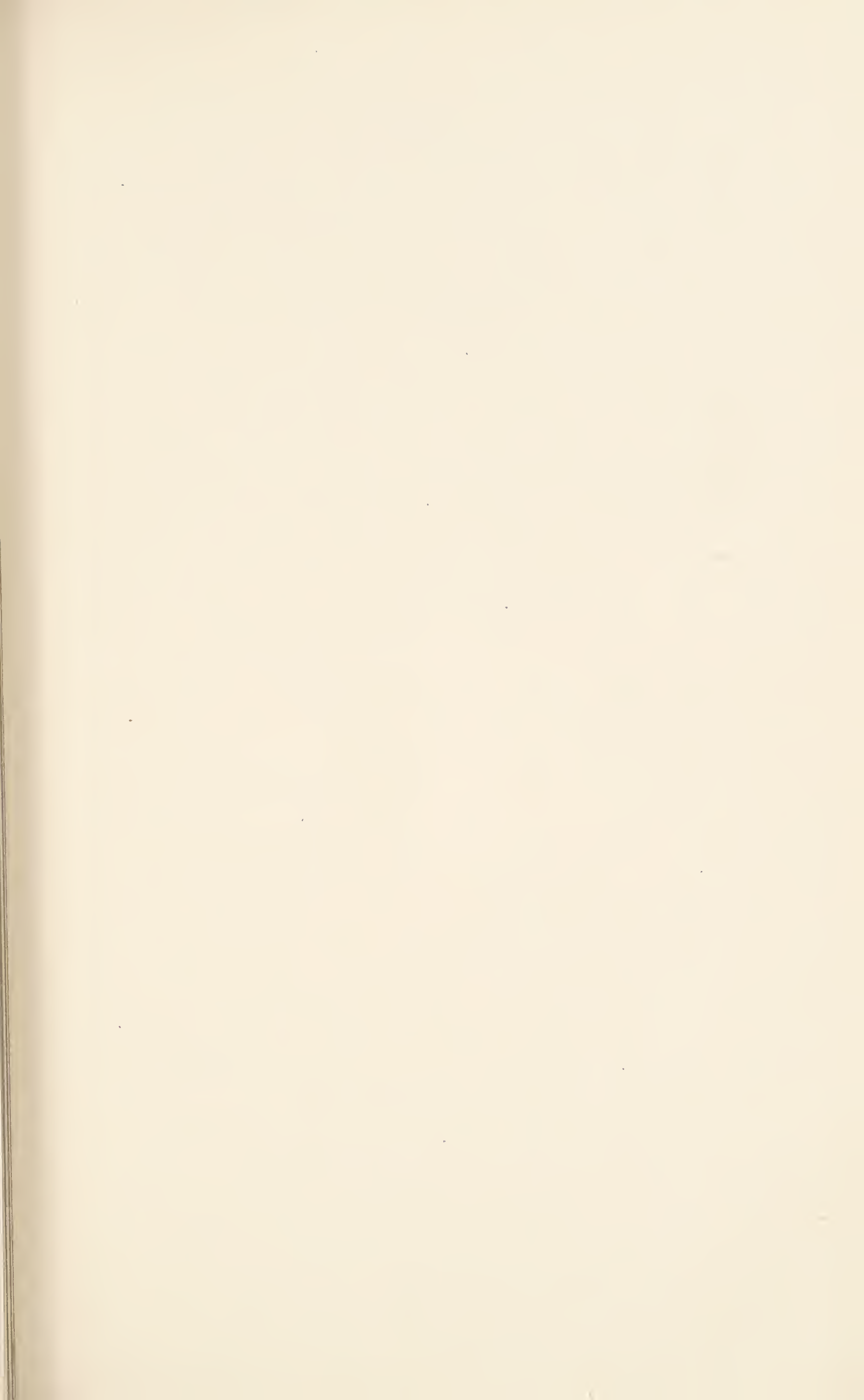
Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	2	3	—	—	1	—	1	—
25	...	...	5	1	1	1	1	—	—	1
35	...	...	2	5	—	—	2	2	1	—
45	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards			1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Totals	...		15	10	4	1	5	6	2	1

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. HABGOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.



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